

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SWEDEN IS CONCERNED BY NORWEGIAN ELECTION OUTCOME

SUMMARY: NORWEGIAN ELECTION OUTCOME IS VIEWED BY SWEDISH POLITICAL COMMUNITY AS DISAPPOINTING AND EVEN "TRAGIC." PICTURE IN OSLO OF POLITICAL POLARIZATION AND NEAR STALEMATE STIRS SOME FOREBODING IN STOCKHOLM. BUT IMPACT OF SURPRISE OUTCOME IN NORWAY IS SO DIFFUSE AS TO BE UNLIKELY TO INFLUENCE VOTING PATTERN SIGNIFICANTLY. END SUMMARY.

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. OUTCOME OF NORWEGIAN ELECTION SENT SHUDDER OF FOREBODING THROUGH SWEDISH POLITICAL COMMUNITY. RESULTS ARE GENERALLY INTERPRETED AS A POLARIZATION TOWARD EXTREMES WHICH HAS PRODUCED A VIRTUAL STALEMATE GUARANTEEING WEAK GOVERNMENT IN OSLO FOR NEXT FEW YEARS.

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2. CONSERVATIVE SVENSKA DAGBLADET SAID TODAY THERE SEEMED TO BE THREE FACTORS WHICH PRODUCED THAT OUTCOME: "CONTINUED DEEP DIFFERENCES ON EC QUESTION, THE BOURGEOIS DIVISION AND A DEEP DISTRUST OF ESTABLISHED POLITICIANS AMONG THE PEOPLE." SD SAID NORWEGIAN ELECTION WAS ADDITIONAL EVIDENCE OF "STATE OF CRISIS" IN SCANDINAVIAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES, CITING FACT THAT NORWEGIAN, DANISH, FINNISH, AND SWEDISH SOCDEM PARTIES ARE ALL NOW TO SOME DEGREE HOSTAGE TO THE EXTREME LEFT IN THE SOCIALIST CAMP.

3. INDEPENDENT LIBERAL DAGENS NYHETER CALLED OSLO OUTCOME A "PARLIAMENTARY TRAGEDY,- SAYING "LABOR PARTY, WHICH FOR MANY YEARS WAS STABILIZING ELEMENT IN NORWEGIAN POLITICAL LIFE, WAS HIT BY CATASTROPHIC DEFEAT FROM WHICH GROUPS ON EXTREME LEFT CAN PROFIT." DN SUMMED UP SITUATION THUS: "AFTER FOUR YEARS OF POLITICAL CIRCUS WITH HARSH DIVISION, CONSTANT GOVERNMENT CRISES AND WEAK CABINETS THERE WERE HOPES FOR A MOBILIZATION OF POWER. INSTEAD, THE UNITING ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN WEAKENED AND THE POLARIZATION INCREASED."

4. IN AN ELECTION SPEECH PRIMIN PALME CALLED ELECTION "A SEVERE SETBACK" FOR NORWEGIAN SISTER PARTY." PALME LAID MOST OF BLAME TO LABOR PARTY SPLIT OVER EC BUT MORAL HE DREW WAS DERIVED FROM ADVANCE OF NORWAY'S EXTREMISTS OF THE RIGHT. "SOME YEARS AGO BOURGEOIS PARTIES PROMISED BIG TAX CUTS IF THEY CAME TO POWER," HE SAID. "THEY WON THE ELECTION BUT COULD NOT MAKE GOOD ON PROMISES. DISCONTENT OVER THIS MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR LANGE TO GAIN FOUR STORING SEATS. SIMPLEST WAY OF PREVENTING SOMETHING SIMILAR HAPPENING IN SWEDEN IS TO KEEP SOCDEM GOVERNMENT IN POWER." END UNCLASSIFIED.

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COMMENT: CONSENSUS IN STOCKHOLM POLITICAL QUARTERS IS THAT NORWEGIAN ELECTION RESULTS ARE UNLIKELY TO PRODUCE SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN OUTCOME OF SUNDAY BALLOTING IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SWEDEN. SOCDEM SPOKESMEN ARE POINTING TO NORWAY RESULTS AS A WARNING OF WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOOD SOCDEMS DESERT THE ORTHODOX PARTY OR STAY HOME FROM POLLS - REACTION AND STAGNATION ARE THE WINNERS. THIS MAY WELL PRODUCE BIGGER TURNOUT OF SOCDEM VOTERS SUNDAY. OFFSETTING THIS IS ENCOURAGEMENT OPPOSITION HERE WILL DERIVE FROM SPECTACLE OF A SOCDEM PARTY CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH SWEDISH PARTY TAKING A BAD LICKING. THIS IS NOT INCON-

SEQUENTIAL SINCE A MAJOR HANDICAP OF OPPOSITION IS
DIFFICULTY ORDINARY SWEDE HAS IN ACCEPTING THE NOTION
THAT A SOCDEM GOVERNMENT COULD REALLY BE BEATEN.
OLSEN

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